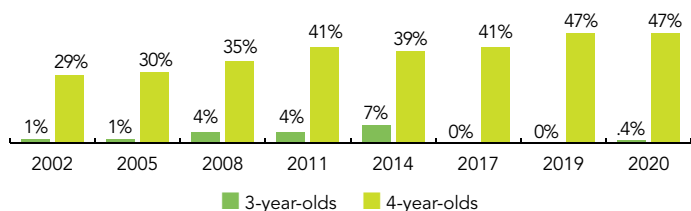
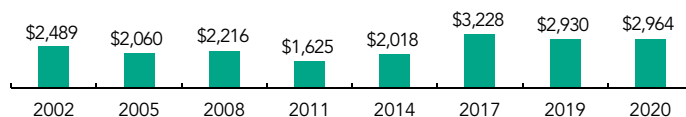


South Carolina

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2020 DOLLARS)



OVERVIEW

South Carolina preschool enrolled 29,007 children in 2019-2020, an increase of 385 children from the prior year. State funding totaled \$85,962,509, up \$2,107,546 (3%), adjusted for inflation, since last year. State spending per child equaled \$2,964 in 2019-2020, up \$34 from 2018-2019, adjusted for inflation. South Carolina met 7 of 10 quality standards benchmarks.

WHAT'S NEW

South Carolina was one of 23 states awarded a three-year PDG B-5 renewal grant for \$11,146,654 designed to implement the strategic plan developed with the 2018 PDG B-5 planning grant. In 2020, South Carolina also received funding for a state longitudinal data system that will allow the state to maintain child-level data for both public and private programs. In March 2020, all state-funded preschool programs physically closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All programs were required to offer remote instruction.

BACKGROUND

South Carolina funds two preschool programs: the Education Improvement Act Child Development Program (EIA 4K) and the public/private Child Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP). Both programs are delivered in public school settings via the South Carolina Department of Education's Office of Early Learning and Literacy (OELL). CERDEP is co-administered in private preschool settings by South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness (First Steps), the state's school readiness initiative.

EIA 4K, initiated in 1984, is funded as part of a one-cent sales tax supporting public education projects. Eligibility for EIA 4K is prioritized by law for children qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch or Medicaid; and allows for consideration of children with documented developmental delays. After income and developmental eligibility, EIA 4K districts may set their own eligibility criteria from a state-specified list of risk factors including low parent education, history of foster care, homelessness, and teen parents. State funding is allocated to districts by OELL using a formula according to the number of kindergarten students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch in each district. Participating school districts are required to offer, at minimum, a half-day pre-K program. Most school districts now provide full-day programs, with a few continuing to offer half-day programs.

CERDEP, originally called the Child Development Education Pilot Program (CDEPP), is the state's other early education initiative. Created as a pilot program in 2006 in response to Abbeville County School District, et. al. v. South Carolina, a school equity funding lawsuit brought by rural school districts, the program was codified in 2014 along with the state's Read to Succeed legislation (Act 284). Children who qualify for Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, or are homeless, transient, or in foster care are eligible to participate CERDEP.

To monitor quality, OELL conducts visits including an evaluation based on the ELLCO checklist used to provide feedback and support to ensure all classrooms are language- and literacy-rich. Some programs receive an additional level of monitoring which includes a fidelity verification measuring curriculum implementation. Feedback is provided to the teacher, school administrator, and/or the CERDEP district liaison/reading coach to provide post-observation feedback and set future goals.

First Steps' 4K Coaches make announced and unannounced monitoring and technical assistance visits twice monthly to CERDEP classrooms in private settings. These visits include unannounced evaluative monitoring using the ECERS-3, as well as measures of curricular fidelity with reflecting, goal-setting and action plans for programs.

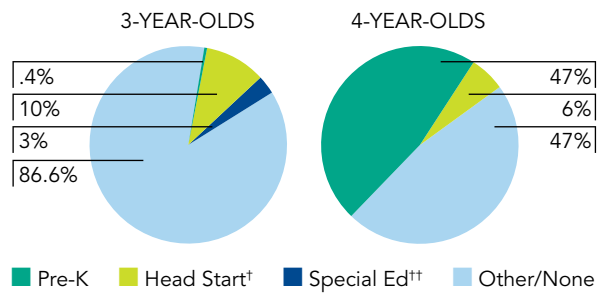
ACCESS RANKINGS		RESOURCE RANKINGS		TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS	STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING	
11	31	39	40	7

SOUTH CAROLINA CHILD EARLY READING DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION PROGRAM AND EIA/4K

ACCESS

Total state pre-K enrollment	29,007
School districts that offer state program	100%
Income requirement	185% FPL
Minimum hours of operation	4 hours/day; 5 days/week
Operating schedule	School or academic year
Special education enrollment, ages 3 and 4	5,541
Federally funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	9,923
State-funded Head Start enrollment, ages 3 and 4	0

PERCENT OF POPULATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ECE



† Estimates children in Head Start not also enrolled in state pre-K.
 †† Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

POLICY	SC PRE-K REQUIREMENT	BENCHMARK	REQUIREMENT MEETS BENCHMARK?
Early learning & development standards	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	Comprehensive, aligned, supported, culturally sensitive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum supports	Approval process & supports	Approval process & supports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher degree	BA (public); AA (nonpublic)	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher specialized training	ECE	Specializing in pre-K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant teacher degree	HSD	CDA or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff professional development	15 hours/year; PD plans; Coaching	For teachers & assistants: At least 15 hours/year; individual PD plans; coaching	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maximum class size	20 (4-year-olds)	20 or lower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff-child ratio	1:10 (4-year-olds)	1:10 or better	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening & referral	Immunizations, developmental; Referrals	Vision, hearing & health screenings; & referral	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continuous quality improvement system	Structured classroom observations; Data used for program improvement	Structured classroom observations; data used for program improvement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

For more information about the benchmarks, see the Executive Summary and Roadmap to State Profile Pages.

7

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending	\$85,962,509
Local match required?	No
State Head Start spending	\$0
State spending per child enrolled	\$2,964
All reported spending per child enrolled*	\$3,216

* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

** Head Start per-child spending includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds.

*** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

